Bhoon-led group bags two key PbBC slots

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Ahsan Bhoon-led independent group clinched the posts of Punjab Bar Council (PbBC) vice chairman and chairman executive committee in an election held on Saturday.

This was the first election of these posts after the election of the 75-member house of the PbBC for a term of five years held in November last year.

Candidates of the independent group obtained 56 votes, while those of the Hamid Khan-led professional group secured 18 votes.

Khwaja Qaiser was elected vice chairman and Fakhar Hayat chairman of the executive committee. The professional group nominated Imran Hussain Chattha and Faisal Malik for the vice chairman and chairman executive committee, respectively.

Man, two sons found murdered at home

LAHORE: Police on Saturday found bodies of a man and his two sons from a house in a private housing scheme in the Kahna area.

Nauman Akhtar, 65, his sons, Kamran, 35 and Imran, 30, were found dead at their home in Central Park .

Police said the deceased were killed some 20 days ago and their bodies were dumped in the house. The bodies had started decomposing.

Police shifted the bodies to the morgue for autopsy and started the investigation.— Staff Reporter

CTD foils major terror plot, arrests RAW operative in Lahore

By Imran Gabol

LAHORE: Punjab's Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has claimed to have foiled a major terror plan with the arrest of 49 suspected terrorists during a month-long province-wide crackdown, including a "dangerous operative" allegedly linked to India's intelligence agency (RAW) detained from Lahore with explosives and sensitive maps.

According to CTD officials, the suspect, identified as Mujtaba, was arrested during an intelligence-based operation in the provincial capital. A large quantity of explosives, along with maps of important buildings, was recovered from his possession. The department said the recovery indicated planning to target sensitive installations in multiple cities.

In a statement, the CTD spokesperson said the department carried out 425 intelligence-based operations across Punjab to pre-empt potential terrorist activity. During these operations, 427 suspects were questioned and 49 individuals were arrested for alleged involvement in terrorism-related activities. Weapons, explosives and other prohibited material were also seized, the spokesperson said.

The arrested suspects include Shaukat, Naveed, Abdul Rehman, Amjad, Shahid, Abrar, Danish Khan, Khalil Ahmed, Jamil-ur-Rehman, Ehsanullah, Nader, Waqas, Hasnain, Farooq, Jamshed and Awlad Khan, among others. CTD said the suspects were linked to Fitna-ul-Khawarij and other banned organisations.

The arrests were made from multiple districts, including Lahore, Sahiwal, Rawalpindi, Toba Tek Singh, Hafizabad, Gujranwala, Chakwal, Jhelum, Dera Ghazi Khan, Faisalabad, Chiniot, Pakpattan, Khushab, Okara, Attock, Sheikhupura and Vehari.

During the operations, CTD claimed to have recovered 16,480 grams of explosives, two hand grenades, 36 detonators, 58 feet of safety fuse wire, six improvised explosive device (IED) bombs, pamphlets and magazines of banned organisations, SIM cards, mobile phones and cash.

The spokesperson said the suspects had planned attacks on important buildings in different cities. He added that 44 cases had been registered against the arrested individuals, while further investigation was under way to determine their networks and facilitators.

Separately, CTD, with the support of local police and other security agencies, conducted 6,131 combing operations across the province. During these operations, 243,546 individuals were checked, 599 suspects were arrested, 568 FIRs were registered and 477 recoveries were made.

Reaffirming its commitment to maintaining security, the CTD spokesperson said the department was working to ensure a safe Punjab and would continue action against terrorists and anti-state elements. He urged citizens to report suspicious activity to the CTD Punjab helpline at 0800-11111.

Three panels in the run for Gymkhana club election

LAHORE: The Lahore Gymkhana club annual elections, scheduled for Feb 14, are set to see three panels contesting the election, while six former club chairmen have written an open letter lauding the performance and efforts of the Salman Siddique-Misbah panel that had swept the last-year polls. They call the outgoing panel as "gentlemen" for their abilities and conduct during 2025.

This year, Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera has fielded his "Monopoly Breaker" panel and fielded 12 candidates including four former club chairmen on its panel - Tasneem Noorani, Kamran Lashari, Ziaur Rehman and Dr Jawad Sajid.

Last year, Kamran Lashari had not fielded his panel following his defeat in 2024, while Qamar Khan (Bobby), who had contested the 2025 election along with a splinter group of Salman-Misbah panel, has this year introduced his own new "Reformer panel.".

The Salman-Misbah panel has fielded its 12 candidates: Salman Siddique, Wajid Aziz Khan, Mian Misbahur Rehman, Sarmad Nadeem, Mian Parvez Bhandara, Samaira Nazir Siddiqui, Sardar Qasim Farooq Ali, Khawaja Imran Zubair, Mian Waqarud Din, Shaukat Javed, Dr Najamud Din and Syed Yousaf Jamil Hussain Rizvi.

Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera has fielded "Monopoly Breaker" panel with candidates: Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera, Dr Ali Razaque, Tasneem Noorani, Kamran Lashari, Ziaur Rehman, Dr Jawad Sajid, Sheikh Aftab Arshad, Tahir Raza Naqvi, retired Col. Iffat Batool, Sumaira Maroof, Umer Javed Zia and Mian Ijaz.

Qamar Khan (Bobby's) `Reformer panel' comprises candidates: Qamar Khan (Bobby), Dr Shaheena Asif, Dr Qasim Lateef, Khurram Qureshi, Dr Shahid Raza, Naeem K Haq, Shafiqur Rehman, Syed Abid Hussain, Asim Raza, Zile Ellahi, Naufal Khan and Shahid Nazir.

The Lahore Gymkhana's six former chairmen of club's Committee of Management (COM) have written an open letter addressing Salman Siddique and Mian Misbahur Rehman congratulating them for their COM 25 team's excellent performance reflected in the annual report and audited accounts for FY 2025.

The six chairmen – Khawaja Tariq Rahim, Syed Naseer Ahmad, Mian Nisar Ahmed, Parvez Masud, Frid ud Din Ahmad and Hafeezullah Ishaq – lauded that the club, after a very long time, posted an operational profit of over Rs100 million and the accumulated loss of yesteryears was converted into a healthy surplus of Rs160m. "Wiping out a deficit of Rs390m-plus over a period of three to four years is simply outstanding. Kudos to your efforts!" they stated.

The six chairmen also noted that some Rs60m decrease in F&B losses, over Rs50m increase in the guest rooms' profit and the marvelous handling of the club's funds by earning an income of over Rs300m on the club's investments.

They said they had seen improvements everywhere; be it swimming, golf, gymnasium, cricket and the rest of the disciplines. "These efforts, we believe, need recognition from the members - a new tenure for your team being just one of them," they recommended.

The former chairmen also appreciated the outgoing body's efforts in successfully presenting to the general body a case for reducing F&B prices by 10 per cent, eliminating the non-playing sports subscription for members over 65 years of age, and reducing this subscription for all other non-playing members from Rs900 to Rs500 per month. "You have indeed demonstrated that you actually believe that our club is a not-for-profit institution," they stated. **— MANSOOR MALIK**

IN SPECTRUM

Urdu press and Lahore's literary culture

By Tahir Kamran

From the mid-19th century onward, Lahore emerged as the beating heart of Urdu journalism, reshaping not only the cultural life of the city but also the political and linguistic landscape of Punjab as a whole. While historians, administrators, and scholars constructed narratives about Lahore's past and present, it was through the medium of the Urdu press that these narratives were circulated, contested, and absorbed into everyday public life. Newspapers, pamphlets, and journals did more than report events: they created a shared space of discussion that helped turn Urdu into a language of modern consciousness, debate, and identity.

The institutional origins of Urdu journalism in Punjab can be traced to 1849, the year the British annexed and incorporated Punjab into the colonial empire. That same year, the Matba'-i Koh-i-Nur Press was established in Lahore by Munshi Harsukh Rai at the invitation of the British administration. From this press emerged *Koh-i-Nur*, the first Urdu newspaper of the region. Remarkably durable, *Koh-i-Nur* ran for more than 50 years and set the template for Urdu journalism in Punjab. Its success demonstrated both the administrative utility and popular appeal of Urdu, encouraging further investment in printing presses and periodicals across the city.

By the 1860s and 1870s, Lahore had become a thriving centre of print culture. Advances in lithographic printing, relatively low production costs, and the city's status as the provincial capital made it an ideal location for presses. By the 1870s, Lahore was home to more than a dozen Urdu newspapers and journals, and by 1883 Urdu had clearly emerged as the dominant language of the press. Of 13 major newspapers published in the city, 11 were in Urdu, compared to only four in English and two in Arabic. This was a striking development in a province where Punjabi was the spoken language of the majority, underscoring the growing symbolic power of Urdu through print.

One of the key drivers of this early expansion was Maulvi Muharram Ali Chishti, a reformist thinker and prolific pamphleteer who, though less remembered today, played a crucial role in shaping Urdu journalism's tone and purpose. Chishti used the press to address contemporary religious, educational, and political questions, advocating moral reform and intellectual awakening among Muslims. His pamphlets and articles helped cultivate a style of Urdu prose that was accessible yet rhetorically forceful, laying the groundwork for the editorial conventions that later newspapers would adopt. Through figures like Chishti, the press became a tool not just for information, but for persuasion and reform.

The Urdu press in Lahore was never confined to a single community. Sikh, Hindu, and Muslim publishers all recognised Urdu's reach and flexibility. A notable example was the Aftab-i Punjab Press, founded in the 1860s by Diwan Buta Singh. From this press came *Aftab-i Punjab*, the first Urdu weekly devoted to Sikh affairs, as well as *Anwar-ul-Shams*, a legal journal, and *Khalsa Prakash*, published in Punjabi-Gurmukhi. These ventures highlighted the shared utility of Urdu as a medium of public communication across religious lines, even as communal identities remained distinct.

Another major innovation of the late 19th century was the emergence of women's journals in Urdu. Munshi Mumtaz Ali, along with his wife Muhammadi Begum, launched *Tehzeeb-i-Niswan* and *Sharif Bibi* in the 1890s, pioneering publications aimed at women readers. These journals addressed issues of female education, domestic reform, and social norms, creating a literary and intellectual space for women within the Urdu public sphere. Their success demonstrated the expanding social reach of print culture and the adaptability of Urdu to new audiences and concerns.

At the same time, Urdu was becoming embedded in the machinery of colonial governance. The Mufid-i-Am Press, established in the 1870s by Munshi Gulab Singh, became the official Punjab Government Press. It printed textbooks, legal manuals, census reports, and administrative documents in Urdu. This institutional backing followed the British decision in 1854 to declare Urdu the official language of courts and administration in Punjab. The colonial government also published the *Sarkari Akhbar*, an official Urdu gazette that circulated laws, trial proceedings, and bureaucratic orders. Initially a top-down imposition, this administrative use of Urdu familiarised clerks, students, and aspiring officials with the language's formal vocabulary and structures.

What truly transformed Urdu journalism, however, was its turn toward mass readership. No figure embodied this shift more clearly than Munshi Mahbub Alam (1863–1933). In 1887, he launched *Paisa Akhbar*, a newspaper priced at just one paisa. Originally conceived in Gujranwala and soon relocated to Lahore, *Paisa Akhbar* revolutionised Urdu journalism by targeting newly literate and semi-literate readers. Its content combined translated English news, local reporting, serialised fiction, educational columns, and human-interest stories. By 1903, its weekly circulation had reached approximately 13,500 - a remarkable figure given Lahore's modest literacy rates at the time. Mahbub Alam's vision of affordable, engaging journalism helped turn Urdu into an everyday language of information and entertainment, not just an elite or administrative medium.

Journalism in Lahore also became deeply entwined with literature. Many editors and publishers were poets, essayists, and translators, and newspapers served as platforms for literary experimentation alongside political commentary. This fusion was especially evident in *Zamindar*, founded in 1903 by Maulvi Sirajuddin Ahmad and later transformed into a daily under his son, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan. Published from Lahore, *Zamindar* combined fiery editorials, nationalist poetry, satire, and advocacy for agrarian causes such as the *Pagri Sambhal Jatta* movement from 1907 onwards. Under Zafar Ali Khan, a poet and political activist, the paper became one of the most influential voices of Muslim nationalism in Punjab, with circulation reaching into the tens of thousands.

By the early 20th century, newspapers like *Inqilab* and later *Nawa-i-Waqt* further linked Urdu to Muslim political identity. Drawing on what political theorist Benedict Anderson later described as the power of "print languages" to create imagined communities, these papers helped readers across Punjab imagine themselves as part of a shared Muslim public. A reader in Amritsar, Multan, or Rawalpindi could engage with the same editorials, poetry, and political debates, forging a sense of horizontal solidarity that transcended region and class. Urdu, though not the mother tongue of most Punjabi Muslims, was elevated through print into a unifying symbol of community and destiny.

Importantly, the Urdu press was not exclusively Muslim-owned or sectarian. In 1923, the Mahasha family, prominent Hindu Khatris of Punjab, launched *Milap*, an Urdu newspaper with a secular editorial stance. *Milap* gained a wide readership for its accessible prose and commitment to literary culture, frequently publishing Urdu poetry and short stories. Although communal politics in the 1930s and 1940s placed increasing pressure on such ventures, *Milap* demonstrated Urdu's broader cultural appeal and its potential as a shared public language in pre-Partition India.

The reach of Urdu journalism extended well beyond Lahore's elite circles. Low-cost newspapers circulated in smaller towns and rural areas, bringing news, political ideas, and literary culture to readers who had previously been excluded from print. Advertisements, job notices, legal announcements, and commercial information increasingly appeared in Urdu, embedding the language in everyday economic life. Markets, railway stations, and public meetings began to operate linguistically in Urdu, reflecting how the press actively reshaped social practice rather than merely mirroring it.

Scholars such as Ian Talbot have emphasised that this transformation was closely tied to Lahore's emergence as a colonial urban hub. The city's printing presses, educational institutions, and expanding middle class created ideal conditions for Urdu's ascendancy. Through newspapers and journals, Urdu became not only the language of administration but also the medium through which a modern Muslim identity in Punjab was articulated and debated.

By the early 20th century, the Urdu press in Lahore had succeeded in converting Urdu from an imposed bureaucratic language into a culturally rooted, politically expressive, and economically useful medium. Through official gazettes, populist dailies like *Paisa Akhbar*, political organs such as *Zamindar*, literary journals like *Chaudvin Sadi*, and inclusive publications like *Milap*, Urdu became the language of governance, journalism, commerce, and imagination. In doing so, Lahore's printing presses and newspapers left a lasting linguistic legacy - one that reshaped public life in Punjab and continues to shape debates about language, identity, and power to this day.

IBA Leadership ▪ Excellence ▪ Impact | 75 YEARS & BEYOND | AACSB ACCREDITED | IBA CEE Center for Executive Education | unicon CONSORTIUM FOR UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

IBA-CEE DIPLOMA PROGRAMS 2026

OUTREACH PARTNER: MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF PAKISTAN (MAP)

REGISTRATION DEADLINE:	Sunday, March 15, 2026
CLASSES COMMENCE:	Saturday, April 11, 2026
DURATION:	10 Weeks
CLASS SCHEDULE:	Saturday & Sunday Only
VENUE:	City Campus, IBA Karachi
INVESTMENT:	PKR 175,000 + 3% SST
15% EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT:	Till Sunday, February 15, 2026

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Diploma in Aviation Leadership & Management (In collaboration with Civil Aviation Training Institute)
- Diploma in Family Managed Businesses
- Diploma in Healthcare Leadership and Management
- Diploma in Management Consulting (In collaboration with Sidat Hyder Morshed Associates Pvt. Ltd.)
- Diploma in Strategic Human Resource Management
- Diploma in Strategic Marketing (In collaboration with Chartered Institute of Marketing, UK)
- Diploma in Strategic Real Estate Management
- Diploma in Strategic Sales Management
- Diploma in Textile Leadership and Management (In collaboration with Textile Institute of Pakistan)
- Diploma in Corporate Law
- Diploma in Employment Law and Industrial Relations (In collaboration with Employers' Federation of Pakistan)
- Diploma in ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance)
- Diploma in International Trade (In collaboration with Pakistan Single Window)
- Diploma in Logistics, Transportation, and Warehouse Management (In collaboration with PIFFA Training Institute)
- Diploma in Strategic Supply Chain Management
- Diploma in Taxation (In collaboration with Pakistan Tax Bar Association Academy)

Register Now https://shorturl.at/vQus0

diplomacee@iba.edu.pk
(021) 38104701 (Ext: 1809, 1812, 1822)
cee.iba.edu.pk

+92 21 111 422 422 | www.iba.edu.pk | ibakhiofficial